

**Remarks**

**In the Claims:**

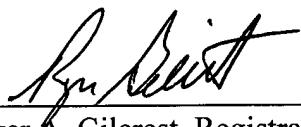
Please delete claims 18-37 in their entirety.

**Conclusion**

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and entry of the present amendment and allowance of the application as amended is earnestly requested. Telephone inquiry to the undersigned in order to clarify or otherwise expedite prosecution of the present application is respectfully encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 22, 2004

  
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